

MAIN MENU

First Page
Back Page
Miscellaneous
City News
Editorial
Oped
Business
Business
Countryside
Countryside
Sports
Foreign News

ARCHIVE ISSUE

February ▾ 2026 ▾						
Sat	Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri
	01	02	03	04	05	06
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28						

41 | dailyobserver

Is implementation of July Charter left in limbo?

Uncertainty is looming over the implementation of the country's political and economic reforms adopted under the July Charter against the backdrop of the July-August 2024 mass uprising. This confusion has arisen following the abstention of members of parliament from the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) and its allies from taking the oath as members of the Constitution Reform Council (CRC).

However, BNP has its own arguments on the issue. Its leader, Salahuddin Ahmed, explained the why and whereof of their stance, saying that the CRC is not part of the present Constitution. So, it must first be included into the Constitution in line with the outcome of the referendum.

Conversely, 68 lawmakers from Jamaat-e-Islami and six from the National Citizens Party (NCP) were sworn in as CRC members, creating complications at the very beginning of the new parliament. It is now the talk of the town whether the execution of the July Charter will see the light of day in the coming days, as expected by the voters.

Notably, voters gave their overwhelming nod to the referendum held on the same day as the election. It drew over 90 percent voter turnout, with 48,074,429 people casting 'yes' votes and 22,565,627 casting 'no' votes. This means the next government will have to carry out a set of political and economic reforms, including 40 constitutional amendments.

In the wake of the victory of the 'yes' vote in the referendum, it is mandated that a Constitution Reform Council be formed, comprising representatives elected in the 13th parliamentary elections, as the responsibility for implementing reform proposals rests with the Council. These reform proposals were agreed upon after protracted debates and discussions between political parties and the then National Commission Commission, which formed the basis of the July Charter.

However, during discussions with the Consensus Commission, BNP submitted notes of dissent on several key issues, including the method of establishing a bicameral parliament composed of an upper house and a lower house. Instead, the party presented its 31-point manifesto containing some constitutional reform proposals to vote voters.

Meanwhile, the issue has become further complicated after a Supreme Court lawyer filed a writ petition with the High Court challenging the legality of the referendum, seeking the annulment of its results.

The July Charter outlines a vision for national reform, promising to rebalance executive powers, restore the caretaker government system, ensure judicial independence and decentralize governance. It further commits to justice for the victims of enforced disappearances, torture, and killings during the past 16 years, while pledging recognition and rehabilitation for the martyrs and survivors of the July uprising.

Now, the implementation of the July Charter has been left in limbo, with lawmakers from the BNP-led alliance and independents refraining from being sworn in as members of the CRC. This may be because, in our altered political culture, similar reform proposals in the past did not materialise once parties entered power.

But the people of the country still pin their hopes on the ruling party for the implementation of the much-coveted July Charter.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

Mathematics behind modern AI

Dear Sir,

Today, AI influences nearly every aspect of modern life, from voice assistants to medical diagnostics. However, behind these intelligent systems lies a powerful mathematical foundation.

Linear algebra enables machines to process vast amounts of data using vectors and matrices. Calculus allows models to learn by minimizing errors through optimization techniques such as gradient descent. Probability and statistics help systems make predictions under uncertainty, forming the basis of applications like spam filtering and disease risk analysis. Optimization theory further ensures that models are efficient, accurate, and capable of generalizing beyond training data.

Mathematics not only supports the technical structure of AI but also ensures logical consistency, transparency, and fairness. As AI continues to evolve, the demand for strong mathematical understanding becomes even greater.

Therefore, recognizing mathematics as the intellectual core of machine learning is essential for students and researchers alike. The future of AI innovation depends on solid mathematical knowledge and critical thinking.

Sadia Siddiqua Rindi
Student, Department of Mathematics
Jagannath University



PROF DR MD IQBAL ULLAH

In moments of political transition, nations are often defined less by the outcomes of elections than by how faithfully they honour the promises that made those outcomes possible. Bangladesh now finds itself in such a moment. The debate surrounding the July National Charter is not merely procedural; it speaks to a deeper question about trust, continuity, and the shared resolve to ensure that democratic aspirations are translated into institutional reality.

The July National Charter 2025 emerged from an extraordinary period in the country's political history following the upheaval that ended the long tenure of Sheikh Hasina. Conceived as a broad framework for constitutional, electoral, and administrative reform, the charter reflected a rare convergence among political actors who recognized that democratic stability requires structural renewal. Signed in the presence of Chief Adviser Muhammad Yunus, it symbolized a collective acknowledgment that the future of governance must be anchored in stronger institutions and clearer safeguards.

In the months leading to the election, major political parties, including the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, Jamaat-e-Islami, and the National Citizens Party, articulated their support for the reform agenda embodied in the charter. Public statements from BNP leaders such as Mirza Fakhrul Islam Alamgir and Salahuddin Ahmed underscored its historic significance, while messaging from Tarique

Editorial

Concerns hover over future of July Charter

Dhaka Thursday February 19, 2026

Rahman reinforced the expectation that electoral victory would be followed by meaningful reform initiatives. These assurances helped shape a public perception that the post-election period would mark the beginning of a substantive reform process rather than a pause in it.

The subsequent debate over the additional oath related to the Constitution Reform Council has therefore drawn considerable attention. While representatives from Jamaat-e-

strength of the July Charter lay precisely in its ability to transcend habitual mistrust and create a platform for cooperation across ideological divides. Preserving that spirit requires patience, dialogue, and a willingness to reconcile procedural differences without losing sight of shared goals.

Beyond the immediate political debate, the charter remains significant because of what it represents: an effort to strengthen judicial independence, expand rights, enhance accountability,

the promises made in a moment of national reflection were not merely rhetorical.

The path forward, therefore, lies not in assigning blame but in reaffirming shared commitments. A renewed consensus on the mechanisms and timeline for implementing the charter, whether through parliamentary processes, constitutional amendments, or mutually agreed institutional arrangements, would help bridge current differences while preserving con-

“The subsequent debate over the additional oath related to the Constitution Reform Council has therefore drawn considerable attention. While representatives from Jamaat-e-Islami and the National Citizens Party chose to take both oaths, BNP lawmakers opted not to, citing constitutional considerations and maintaining that reforms can proceed through parliamentary mechanisms”

Islam and the National Citizens Party chose to take both oaths, BNP lawmakers opted not to, citing constitutional considerations and maintaining that reforms can proceed through parliamentary mechanisms. From one perspective, this position reflects a strict reading of constitutional procedure; from another, it raises concerns about the pace and clarity of reform implementation. Yet it is equally true that BNP leaders continue to affirm their commitment to the charter's objectives, emphasizing that any reform must rest on a legally sound foundation.

Such differences in approach are not unusual in democratic systems, but they do highlight the importance of communication and confidence-building among political actors. The

and ensure that no future government, regardless of party, can easily drift toward authoritarian practices. In a political culture shaped by cycles of confrontation, the commitment to reform carries both practical and symbolic weight. It signals an understanding that democratic legitimacy depends not only on electoral success but also on the integrity of institutions.

If progress on the charter were to falter, the consequences would extend beyond the present controversy. Public confidence in political commitments could weaken, partisan mistrust could deepen, and the broader reform momentum generated by recent events could dissipate. Conversely, even gradual and negotiated progress would reinforce the credibility of democratic governance and reassure citizens that

stitutional continuity. Such an approach would honour both the letter and the spirit of the commitments made before the electorate.

Ultimately, the enduring test of political leadership is the ability to convert mandate into trust. The July Charter represents a rare moment when Bangladesh's political forces converged around a vision of reform rooted in democratic resilience. Sustaining that convergence, through dialogue and good faith, would not only advance institutional reforms but also reaffirm a collective pledge that the country's future will be shaped by cooperation rather than division, and by accountability rather than expediency.

The writer is a former DM, Sher-e-Bangla Agricultural University

How will our government fare in new world order?



MD REZWANUL ALAM

The architecture designed to stop major global conflict is now showing signs of structural cracks. Multilateral agreements are failing to guarantee the security of small states. As the failure of the Minsk-II agreement showed, territorial integrity is no longer guaranteed by signatures only. The agreement was negotiated in 2015 by Russia, Ukraine, and the OSCE. The plan involved a decentralized system for Donetsk and Luhansk under Ukrainian control. But it failed, as Russia insisted from the very beginning that it was not a party to the agreement and its terms don't apply to it. The result is evident: Russia launched a direct invasion of Ukraine in 2022, resulting in thousands of lives lost.

One of the main pillars of the post-Second World War world order is the concept of collective security. But it is increasingly under attack. NATO used to be the perfect example of collective security. Recently, we saw the US under the Trump administration pressuring Denmark, a smaller NATO ally, to buy Greenland. The Trump administration even hinted at using military force if diplomatic efforts didn't work. Countries like Germany, France, and the UK backed Denmark. Yet, this support couldn't stop a US-NATO deal that granted 'total and permanent' US access to Greenland.

The rise of economic nationalism is threatening global cooperation. It is undoing decades of global efforts to liberalize trade and replacing it with protectionist policies. Big powers are using economic policies as tools of statecraft and national security. In the name of reducing the trade deficit, the Trump administration announced reciprocal tariffs on all countries on April 2, 2025. Small countries were forced to negotiate on unequal footing. These negotia-

tions weren't just about economics; they also included US geopolitical interests.

The trend is not limited to the US. Sanae Takaichi, Japan's first female Prime Minister, is endorsing narratives like 'economic self-reliance' to address supply chain problems. Her recent landslide victory in the February 8, 2024, snap elections shows the regional shift toward nationalist leadership.

The renewed race for resources by powerful countries troubles small nations. Recently, we saw the US breach Venezuela's sovereignty. On January 3, 2024, the US military abducted Venezuelan President Nicolas Maduro and his wife to try them in New York on drug trafficking and racketeering charges. But the real motive behind this was to secure exclusive US rights to Venezuelan oil.

Bangladesh is a small country in the third world. It is in a tough neighborhood dominated by regional and global powers. With the newly formed BNP-led alliance coming to power, Bangladesh should pursue a 'Smart Power' strategy. This means combining effective military strength with flexible diplomacy. It's not about fostering aggression. It's about establishing a capable military that supports our diplomatic initiatives.

Bangladesh should modernize its military to meet the challenges of the 21st century. Specifically, it should take concrete steps to modernize its air force (RAF), which is still using Cold War-era equipment. Weakness in air power is making Bangladesh's land and naval forces vulnerable too. A strong air force will enable the country to play a leading role in maritime security and disaster response. This will increase the coun-

try's diplomatic weight. Hopefully, BAF, under the interim government, signed a letter of intent with the Italian company Leonardo for Eurofighter Typhoon. It is a good start, but the trend must continue under the new government.

Modern warfare is evolving very fast. Recent conflicts have shown the effectiveness of low-cost unmanned platforms, such as UAVs and underwater sea drones, against modern, sophisticated platforms. Now, small states can build a credible asymmetric deterrence even without spending much. Bangladesh should heavily invest in this sector to gain self-sufficiency. BAF has recently signed a deal with China to manufacture drones locally. Other services should follow in.

On January 21, 2025, newly appointed US ambassador to Bangladesh, Brent T. Christensen, warned Bangladesh of risks associated with deepening security ties with China. Keeping that in mind, the new government should diversify its defense partnerships beyond traditional allies. It should look to build defense ties with emerging powers like Turkey and South Korea to avoid getting caught in the US-China crossfire.

For many years, Bangladesh's defense needs were neglected. The new government should prioritize this sector as promised in their manifesto. The BNP government needs to sustain the momentum gained under the interim government and build upon it. In an age where 'might' can dictate 'right,' Bangladesh must ensure it has the power to protect its sovereignty while managing the challenges of 21st-century geopolitics.

The writer is a graduate of political science from the University of Dhaka

Editor : Iqbal Sobhan Chowdhury

Published by the Editor on behalf of the Observer Ltd. from Globe Printers, 24/A, New Eskaton Road, Ramna, Dhaka.

Editorial, News and Commercial Offices : Aziz Bhaban (2nd floor), 93, Motijheel C/A, Dhaka-1000.

Phone: PABX- 41053001-06; Online: 41053014; Advertisement: 41053012.

E-mail: district@dailyobserverbd.com, news@dailyobserverbd.com, advertisement@dailyobserverbd.com, For Online Edition: mailobserverbd@gmail.com

Developed by i2soft
